



Apply Now for New Dairy 30x20 Processor Grant

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MADISON – Wisconsin dairy processors can now benefit from Grow Wisconsin Dairy 30x20 grants just as farmers have been doing over the past two years. Processors can now apply for these grants to foster innovation, improve profitability and facilitate operational changes.

“There is a continued demand for Wisconsin dairy products worldwide, and the Grow Wisconsin Dairy 30x20 Initiative was developed to ensure the long-term viability of the industry,” said Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Secretary Ben Brancel. “I am pleased that DATCP is now able to offer a grant designed for Wisconsin dairy processors to address specific business needs and grow the state’s agricultural economy.”

Dairy processing stakeholders met with DATCP staff last October to discuss industry priorities and develop this new grant. The Grow Wisconsin Dairy 30x20 Team also connects dairy farmers and processors with resources year-round through their toll-free number.

“The structure for Dairy 30x20 has been established with direct input from the industry participants,” explained Brancel. “The processing representatives expressed the need for these grants to encourage collaboration and create insights that would benefit the entire industry.”

The Grow Wisconsin Dairy 30x20 Processor Grant is customizable for each processor. Eligible applicants must operate a licensed dairy processing plant engaged in pasteurizing, processing or manufacturing milk or dairy products that is, or will be, located in Wisconsin.

Grants may be up to \$50,000 per proposal. The applicant must provide at least 20 percent of the total grant award as a matching contribution. Funds may be used for operating expenses, employee training, equipment rental or equipment purchase, as long as the full value is ordinarily depreciable within one year.

“The processing grants will allow processors to address an existing concern, improve production or allow for innovation,” added Brancel. “By providing technical assistance at our plants through these grants, the Wisconsin dairy industry will continue to grow, increasing our ability to access new markets.”

The application deadline is Friday, February 21, 2014. Recipients will be chosen through a competitive selection process. Wis. Act 20 provided an annual appropriation of \$200,000 for dairy processing grants.

Additional information and the application are available online at GrowWisconsinDairy.wi.gov. For more information, call toll-free at 855-WI DAIRY (855-943-2479) or email GrowWisconsinDairy@wi.gov.

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